

## **II. Remarks**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 44-50 and 71-75 are pending in the application. Claims 17-26, 28-35, 37-43, 51, 54-61, 77, 79, 80, 82-87, 89, and 90 have been cancelled. Claims 44 and 71 are independent.

The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Merek for finding claims 44-50 and 71-75 allowable over the prior art. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 17-26, 28-35, 56-61, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82-87, 89, and 90 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In order to expedite prosecution, however, and only for such reason, the Applicants have chosen to cancel the aforesaid claims. In addition, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 37-43, 51, and 54-61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Stahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,391,369). In order to expedite prosecution, however, and only for such reason, the Applicants have chosen to cancel the aforesaid claims.

Applicants' attorney, Mark W. Hrozenchik, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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